

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Amended). A medical packaging substrate comprising a polymer-impregnated paper-based web, said polymer-impregnated paper-based web being saturated with a polymer emulsion having a glass transition temperature of -20°C or less, wherein said polymer-impregnated paper-based web exhibits a percent bacterial filtration efficiency of at least about 95%.

Claim 2 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 1 wherein said polymer emulsion has a glass transition temperature of -29°C or less.

Claim 3 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 1 wherein said polymer emulsion has a glass transition temperature of -43°C or less.

Claim 4 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 1 wherein said polymer emulsion has a glass transition temperature of -60°C or less.

Claim 5 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 1 wherein said polymer emulsion is added on to said polymer-impregnated paper-based web at a rate of between about 20 and about 60 dry parts per 100 dry parts of fiber in the polymer-impregnated paper-based web.

Claim 6 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 1 wherein said polymer emulsion is added on to said polymer-impregnated paper-based web at a rate of between about 30 and about 50 dry parts per 100 dry parts of fiber in the polymer-impregnated paper-based web.

Claim 7 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 1 wherein said polymer emulsion comprises a polyacrylate.

Claim 8 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 1 wherein said polymer emulsion comprises a blend of a polyacrylate and a polymer that is not a polyacrylate.

Claim 9 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 9 wherein said saturant comprises an additional polymer emulsion.

Claim 10 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 9 wherein said additional polymer emulsion has a glass transition temperature of -20°C or less.

Claim 11 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 9 wherein said additional polymer emulsion has a glass transition temperature of -29°C or less.

Claim 12 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 9 wherein said additional polymer emulsion has a glass transition temperature of -43°C or less.

Claim 13 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 9 wherein said additional polymer emulsion has a glass transition temperature of -60°C or less.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Amended). A medical packaging substrate comprising a polymer-impregnated paper-based web, said polymer-impregnated paper-based web having a Gurley Hill porosity of greater than about 15 sec/100 cc, said polymer-impregnated paper-based web being saturated with a polymer emulsion having a glass transition temperature of -20°C or less, and wherein said polymer-impregnated paper-based web exhibits a ~~%BFE~~ percent bacterial filtration efficiency of at least about 95%.

Claim 16 (Amended). A medical packaging substrate comprising a polymer-impregnated paper-based web, said polymer-impregnated paper-based web having a Gurley Hill porosity of greater than about 15 sec/100 cc, said polymer-impregnated

paper-based web being saturated with a polymer emulsion having a glass transition temperature of -20°C or less, and wherein said polymer-impregnated paper-based web exhibits a ~~%BFE~~ percent bacterial filtration efficiency of at least about 98%.

Claim 17 (Amended). A medical packaging substrate according to claim 16 wherein said polymer-impregnated paper-based web exhibits a ~~%BFE~~ percent bacterial filtration efficiency of at least about 99%.

Claim 18 (Amended). A medical packaging substrate comprising a polymer-impregnated paper-based web, said polymer-impregnated paper-based web having a Gurley Hill porosity of greater than about 15 sec/100 cc, said polymer-impregnated paper-based web being saturated with at least two polymer emulsions wherein at least one of said polymer emulsions has a glass transition temperature of -20°C or less, and wherein said polymer-impregnated paper-based web exhibits a ~~%BFE~~ percent bacterial filtration efficiency of at least about 98%.

Claim 19 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 18 wherein one of said at least two polymer emulsions has a glass transition temperature of about . -43°C or less.

Claim 20 (Original). The medical packaging substrate of claim 19 wherein both of said at least two polymer emulsions have a glass transition temperature of about -43°C or less.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the rejection of the claims in light of the following arguments and allow the pending claims.